

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

19 February 1971

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Mr. Helms passed to me your letters of November 24 and December 28, 1970, and his two letters to you of November 30 and December 16, 1970. Since the disposition of the Dulles papers is largely a legal problem and I have been responsible for making the necessary arrangements, he has asked me to correspond directly with you. Incidentally, I had heard earlier that you had an interest in certain of the papers, but at that time I was not aware of the specific problem, and through a misunderstanding or some slip up, I did not realize you were expecting to hear from me. I apologize, but in any case we were not prepared at that time to give you final answers.

When Mr. Dulles died we all knew he had a large amount of written material in his house which no one had reviewed in detail. We knew that some of it was clearly OSS or CIA material, and that other items were written to him in his official capacity involving sensitive matters and should be incorporated in the Government files. The problem was protection of this material and the suitable sorting of the personal from the official files.

With the agreement of Mrs. Dulles and the executors, all the material was brought to our headquarters, and we have spent a good deal of time having it reviewed by people with the

background and knowledge which would enable them to make intelligent decisions concerning the final disposition. We are finally making some progress and have identified a good many of the different categories. In fact, we have already returned to Mrs. Dulles and the executors some of the documents which are clearly personal in nature. We have also identified numerous categories which should clearly be retained by the Government.

In connection with your inquiry, we have found two folders consisting of your direct reporting to Mr. Dulles [redacted]

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[redacted] Inasmuch as these are reports which Mr. Dulles, [redacted]

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[redacted] requested from you, it is our conclusion that they are properly part of the OSS files and should be incorporated in those Archives. As you may know, it has been an established policy that access to those files is given only to persons with an official "need to know," and they cannot be released to anyone outside the Government for personal reasons.

There is an indication in your letter of November 24th that there was further correspondence after the [redacted] reports I have referred to above, and there are indeed copies of a few letters to you from Mr. Dulles which appear to be acknowledgments of correspondence from you. However, so far our search (which has been quite thorough) has not located any letters from you to Mr. Dulles for the period after 1945, and since we know of no material other than that which was delivered to us, we believe any such correspondence must have been destroyed.

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I realize it must be extremely disappointing to you to receive an answer in this vein, and should any correspondence turn up which would appear to be personal rather than official in nature, we will notify Mrs. Dulles and the executors of your interest as we would not be in a position to make any disposition other than to Mr. Dulles' estate.

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Sincerely,

[redacted signature box]

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

cc: O/DCI
DD/Security

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